Kostroma. It extends in north latitude from 57° 8' to 58° 33', and in east longitude from 45° 6' to 47° 48'. The soil is poor, and the climate raw and cold, better adapted for pasturage than for agriculture ; and the population, much dispersed, does not exceed 30,000 persons. The capital is the city of the same name, 437 miles from St Petersburg. Long. 45. 35. E. Lat. 57. 40. N.

WETSTEIN, John James, a learned biblical critic, was born at Basel in 1693. On his admission to the ministry, he maintained a thesis “ De variis Novi Testamenti Lec­tionibus in which he showed that the great variety of readings of the New Testament affords no argument against the authenticity of the text. He had made these various readings the object of his attention, and travelled into fo­reign countries to examine all the manuscripts he could find. In 1730, he published “ Prolegomena ad Novi Tes­tamenti Græci Editionem accuratissimam,” &c. Some di­vines, dreading his unsettling the present text, procured a decree of the senate of Basel against his undertaking, and even got him prohibited from officiating in the ministry ; on which he went to Amsterdam, where the Remonstrants named him to succeed the famous Le Clerc, then superan­nuated, as professor of philosophy and history. His edi­tion of the New Testament he published in 1752, in 2 vols, folio. He left the text as he found it, placing the various readings, with a critical commentary, underneath ; subjoin­ing two epistles of Clemens Romanus, till then unknown to the learned, but discovered by him in a Syriac manuscript of the New Testament. He died at Amsterdam in 1754.

WETTER Isle, in the Eastern Seas, situated off the north coast of the island of Timor. It is about sixty-five miles in length and twenty in average breadth. Long. 126. 40. E. Lat. 7. 24. S.

WETTEREN, a large market-town of the Netherlands, in the province of East Flanders and circle of Dendermond. It stands on the river Scheldt, and contains 7750 inhabi­tants, chiefly employed in making linen and fine thread. There is a handsome bridge over the river.

WEXFORD, a maritime county in the province of Leinster, in Ireland, is bounded on the north by Wicklow, on the east by St George’s Channel, on the south by the Atlantic, and on the west by Waterford, Kilkenny, and Carlow. It lies between 52° 4' and 52° 48' north latitude, and 6° 5' and 7° 1' west longitude ; extending fifty-five miles in its greatest length from north to south, and thirty- four in its greatest breadth from west to cast, and compre­hending an area of 882 square miles, or 564,479 acres, of which 545,979 are cultivated, and 18,500 uncultivated mountain or bog. It ranks as the fourteenth county in su­perficial extent, and the ninth in that of cultivated land.

The county was first known as the settlement of the Brigantes and of the Menapii, whose chief town, Menapia, is supposed to have been either Ferns or Wexford ; the latter holding the northern parts, with part of Wicklow, the former the southern and western, with a portion of Waterford. It was afterwards known by the name of Laighion or South Leinster. It suffered severely by the predatory incursions of the Danes, who, after ravaging the open country, and burning Ferns, then the capital, made a permanent settlement, of which the town of Weisford or Wexford was the principal position. They retained pos­session of the district until the arrival of the English, who, in 1169, landed at Bagenbon, near Bannow, under the command of Robert Fitzstephen, Maurice Fitzgerald, and Hewey de Montmorency, and took the town of Wexford, which M'Murrough, king of Leinster, to whose aid these adventurers had come into the country, granted to Fitz­stephen, together with the adjoining district of Forth, at the same time bestowing on Montmorency the neighbour­ing district of Bargie. The latter grant was confirmed by Henry II. on his arrival ; but that conferred on Fitzstephen was taken from him and made part of the palatinate of Leinster, which the same king granted to Strongbow, the first undertaker of the adventure, and chief leader of the forces. The district descended, through the female line, to William earl Marshal, on whose demise, without male issue, it was portioned out among his five daughters, the second of whom, wife of Warren de Mountchency, obtain­ed Wexford. In consequence of the frequent changes of seigniory, the district fell into a state of great distrac­tion, and was partly seized on by the Kavenaghs, the de­scendants of M'Murrough, who assumed the title of kings of Leinster. It was reduced to shire-ground by King John in 1210, and the lordship having ultimately descended to the earl of Shrewsbury, the county was separated into two parts, the Liberty and the Cross; the former being governed by authorities appointed by the earl, the latter by officers of the crown. Each sent two members to the Irish par­liament, until the property of the earl became vested in the crown, under the statute of absentees, passed in 1537. During the civil wars of 1641, it was held for the royal party, until reduced by Cromwell, whose operations were signalized by much cruelty. Since that event, the county remained in a tranquil state until the year 1798, when it became the principal seat of the insurrection in the south­ern counties; the town of Wexford forming the head-quar­ters of the insurgents, and several severe conflicts taking place at Enniscorthy, New-Ross, and other positions, with the royal forces.

The surface consists chiefly of a collection of very low hills, except on thc northern and western sides, on the former of which it rises into an elevated ridge, forming the southern termination of the great Wicklow group. Its loftiest points are, Slieveboy, 1384 feet high ; Kilkevan, 1063 ; Connar Hill, 1491 ; and Croghan-Kinshela, 1985. On the latter or western side it is bounded by the rugged chain of Mount Leinster, 2604 feet high, and Blackstairs, 2411, ranging from north to south. The county boundary on this side is continued southwards by the Barrow and the estuary of Waterford harbour. Within the county are the Camerous Hills and Carrickburne, respectively 598 and 766 feet; Lackan, near New-Ross, 628 ; Tarah Hill, a striking land­mark on the eastern coast, 825 ; and Forth Mountain, 774 feet. The south-eastern extremity, containing the baronies of Forth and Bargie, forms a peninsula of low land, nearly shut out from the rest of the county by the last-mentioned range of mountains and by Wexford harbour. The prin­cipal river is the Slaney, which enters the county at its north-western extremity, from Wicklow, and traverses it in a south-eastern direction, till it falls into Wexford harbour at Carrigg, noted for the remains of an ancient Norman fortress, erected by Fitzstephen immediately after his land­ing. The whole course of this river is marked by a suc­cession of picturesque scenery ; and it receives in its pro­gress a number of tributary streams, of which the Bann is thc most remarkable. The Slaney is navigable for small barges to Enniscorthy. The Bannow, which discharges it­self into a bay of the same name, claims notice solely from its historic reminiscences. The Barrow forms the western boundary, from the foot of Blackstairs Mountain, to its con­fluence with the Suir, in Waterford harbour. Lough Ta, near Carnsore Point, is the only lake in the county. It is supplied by the ingress of several small streams, and hav­ing no natural outlet, it increases rapidly in extent, cover­ing the surrounding low land, until, in every second or third year, its accumulated waters are drawn off by an ar­tificial cut, which discharges them into the sea. The coast on the eastern side, from Arklow southwards to Wexford, is very dangerous, having no place of refuge in case of foul weather, except in the small artificial harbour of Courtown, fit only for small craft. The dangers of navigation are in­creased by a succession of sand-banks from that of Arklow,